

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

NOTES

HEALTHY
PEOPLE
2010
GOALS:

- Increase the proportion of adolescents who use condoms, if currently sexually active, or abstain from sexual activity to 95%.
- Increase to 90% the proportion of young adults who have received formal instruction before turning age 18 years on reproductive health issues, including all of the following topics: methods of birth control, safer sex to prevent HIV, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, and abstinence.

RELATED
INDICATORS:

- Birth to Teens
- Substance Abuse Treatment

Indicator

Sexually transmitted diseases among children under 18 years of age

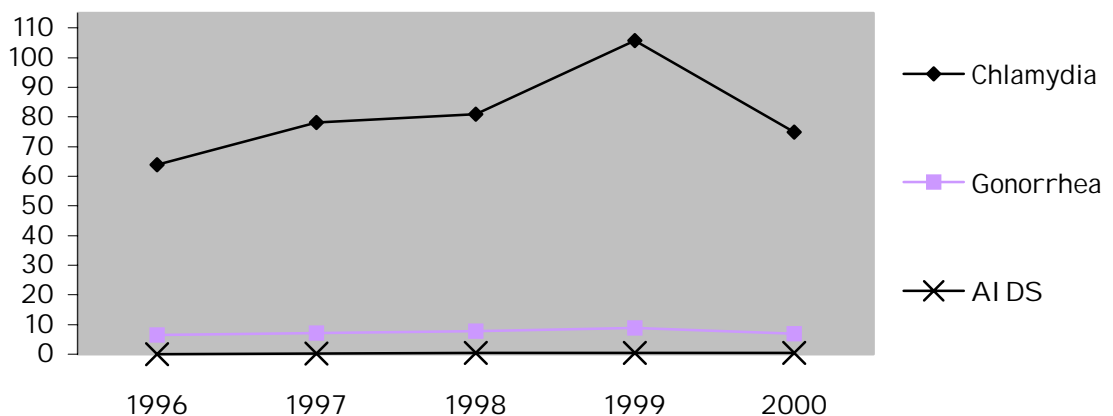
Definition

California law requires health care providers to report cases of specific diseases, including sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis and AIDS, to the local health officer of the jurisdiction in which the patient resides (Title 17, California Code of Regulations (§2500). This section presents the number of cases and annual case rates per 100,000 population of these reportable STDs in children under 18 years of age.

Findings

Chlamydia was the STD reported most frequently in 2000, at a rate of 74.8 per 100,000 children under 18, for a total of 604 cases. The majority of cases occurred among adolescents between the ages of 15 and 17 (465 or 77%). In comparison, only 56 cases of gonorrhea were reported in 2000 among children under 18, for a case rate of 6.9 per 100,000 children that age. Just over half of these cases occurred among adolescents between the ages of 15 and 17 (32 or 57%). Four Orange County children were reported with AIDS, a case rate of 0.5 per 100,000 children under 18; three were acquired during the perinatal period and one case was identified in an adolescent. Finally, 15 new cases of syphilis were reported in 2000 for a case rate of 1.9 per 100,000 children in this age group.

STD Case Rates per 100,000 Children Under Age 18*



*For syphilis rates, please refer to Supplemental Tables.
Includes congenital cases resulting from mother to child transmission.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

Trends

(Please note: all case rates stated in this section are “per 100,000 children under age 18”)

With the ability to diagnose chlamydia from a urine specimen, increased screenings beginning in 1997 resulted in an increased number of reported cases, especially among males. In 2000, there were 604 case reports for chlamydia among children under age 18, a rate of 74.8 per 100,000 children under age 18, having fluctuated between its lowest rate in 1996 of 63.9, and its highest rate of 105.7 in 1999. Syphilis case reports have also fluctuated since 1996, when they numbered 11 for an STD case rate of 1.5, falling to a low of 0 in 1998, and reaching a new high of 15 case reports in 2000 for an STD case rate of 1.9. The number (and rate) of gonorrhea and AIDS case reports for this same age group increased since 1996, from 47 to 56 (6.5 to 6.9) and 1 to 4 (0.1 to 0.5), respectively. AIDS case reports among children are mainly associated with perinatal or blood product transmission as opposed to high-risk activities.

STD Cases Among Children Under Age 18*

STD Type	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Chlamydia	462	585	622	832	604
Gonorrhea	47	53	59	69	56
Syphilis	11	12	0	7	15
AIDS	1	2	4	4	4

*Includes congenital cases resulting from mother to child transmission.

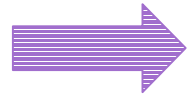
Summary

Sexually transmitted diseases are the most frequently reported diseases in the U.S. Cases of sexually transmitted diseases in adolescents are an indicator of high-risk behavior. Moreover, sexually active teenagers are often reluctant to obtain STD services or may face serious obstacles when trying to obtain them.¹ STDs such as gonorrhea, syphilis, and chlamydia make infected individuals 2-5 times as likely to both acquire and spread HIV.² Since women are more susceptible to infection when exposed to STDs and because STDs are more difficult to diagnose due to the physiology/anatomy of the female reproductive tract, women are often unaware they have an STD, which results in delayed diagnosis and treatment.³

Implications

Currently, California is not required to report HIV infection and therefore no data is available regarding its prevalence. However, less than 1% of AIDS cases reported in Orange County are teens, while 17% are among 20-29 year olds. Many years can separate HIV infection from AIDS diagnosis and it is believed that the majority of persons 20-29 years old diagnosed with AIDS were infected during adolescence. These data suggest that increased prevention education and screening for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases among adolescents are needed.

NOTES



SEE
SUPPLEMENTAL
TABLES FOR
ADDITIONAL
DATA

NATIONWIDE:
According to the
U.S. Department
of Health and
Human Services,
STDs
disproportionately
affect
adolescents.
Almost 4 million
of the 15 million
new STD cases
reported each
year occur in
adolescents.

DATA SOURCE:
Orange County
Health Care
Agency

NOTES:
^{1,3}Healthy People
2010
²Centers for
Disease Control
and Prevention,
1998

SUPPLEMENTAL TABLES: GOOD HEALTH

Indicator

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD's)

Number and STD Case Rates** Among Children Less than 18 Years of Age by Type of Disease

Type of STD*	1996		1997		1998		1999		2000	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Chlamydia	462	63.9	585	78.2	622	80.9	832	105.7	604	74.8
Gonorrhea	47	6.5	53	7.1	59	7.7	69	8.8	56	6.9
Syphilis	11	1.5	12	1.6	0	0.0	7	0.9	15	1.9
AIDS	1	0.1	2	0.3	4	0.5	4	0.5	4	0.5

*Includes congenital cases resulting from mother to child transmission. 1996-1999 data updated.

**Rate per 100,000 children less than 18.

Source: Orange County Health Care Agency/Epidemiology and Disease Control.

STD's Among Children Less than 18 Years of Age by Gender and Type of Disease

Diseases*	1996 ¹	1997 ¹	1998 ¹	1999 ¹	2000
Chlamydia					
Male	61	103	100	146	106
Female	396	476	517	674	477
Unknown	5	6	5	12	21
Total	462	585	622	832	604
Gonorrhea					
Male	14	12	19	26	24
Female	33	38	39	42	30
Unknown	0	3	1	1	2
Total	47	53	59	69	56
Syphilis					
	6				
Male	4	6	0	2	10
Female	7	0	0	1	5
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
Total	11	12	0	3	15
AIDS					
Male	1	1	2	2	3
Female	0	1	2	2	1
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	2	4	4	4

*Includes congenital cases resulting from mother to child transmission.

¹ 1996-1999 data updated by Orange County Health Care Agency/Epidemiology and Disease Control.

Source: Orange County Health Care Agency/Epidemiology and Disease Control.

SUPPLEMENTAL TABLES: GOOD HEALTH

Number of Reported Cases of Sexually Transmitted Diseases By Age and Type of Disease**

Diseases*	1996 ¹	1997 ¹	1998 ¹	1999 ¹	2000
Chlamydia					
0-14 Years	110	136	171	233	139
15-17 Years	352	449	451	599	465
Gonorrhea					
0-14 Years	13	21	17	35	24
15-17 Years	34	32	42	34	32
Syphilis					
0-14 Years	10	11	0	3	15
15-17 Years	1	1	0	4	0
AIDS					
0-14 Years	1	1	4	3	3
15-17 Years	0	1	0	1	1

*Includes congenital cases resulting from mother to child transmission.

**Reports are not required for all Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

¹1996-1999 data updated by Orange County Health Care Agency/Epidemiology and Disease Control.

Source: Orange County Health Care Agency/Epidemiology and Disease Control